## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

# in New Hampshire



## March 2004

Volume 104, Number 03

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# Which occupations increased the most in pay from 2001 to 2002?

Labor Market Information
Bureau, in cooperation with the
Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), conducts an employer based survey to
determine wages and employment levels
for roughly 600 occupations in
New Hampshire. Recently, the 2002
New Hampshire Occupational Employment & Wages publication was published
based on the November 2002 survey.

As we still are trying to understand the economic effect of the recession, it is interesting to compare the wage data from the 2001 and 2002 surveys.

Can occupational pay increases be determined by comparing occupational wages and employment for 2001 and 2002? Is there a correlation between high demand

for a specific occupation and increase in pay or between a decrease in a specific occupation's employment and no pay increase? Have wages for the health care related occupations gone up and have wages in manufacturing and computer related occupations gone down?

## Pay increases for the major occupational groups

Overall, the major occupational group where hourly wages increased the most was Legal occupations, 14.9 percent from 2001 to 2002. Legal occupations include *Lawyers*, *Paralegals*, *Law clerks*, and *Title examiners* among others. The average hourly wage for this major occupational group was \$27.28 in 2001, exceeded only by Management occupations and Computer and mathematical occupations. In the 2002 wage survey,

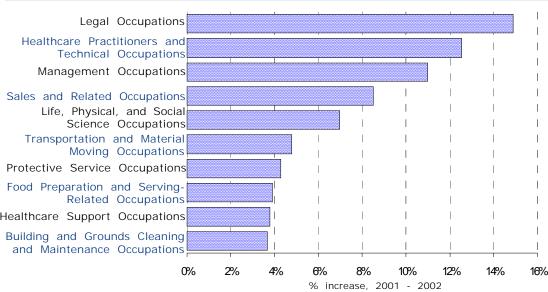
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## Hourly wage increases for top 10 major occupational groups



#### Continued from page 1



publication, go to our web site at www.nhes.state.nh.us/elmi/

Legal occupations exceeded Computer and mathematical occupations with an average hourly wage of \$31.34. From 2001 to 2002 the average hourly wage for Computer and mathematical occupations only increased by 1.2 percent, going from \$27.96 in 2001 to \$28.29 in 2002. This group includes many of the high tech related occupations hit hard by the recession such as Computer Programmers and Computer Software Engineers (Applications or System software) For example, Computer Software Engineers (Applications) estimates showed 450 fewer jobs in 2002 than 2001.

In comparing the wage increases for the major occupational groups it is interesting that Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations increased 12.5 percent whereas Healthcare support occupations only increased 3.8 percent. A rough distinction between the two groups is that the first major group contains occupations with a higher level of education and more

responsibility than the support oriented occupations in the latter group. So although healthcare related occupations are in demand, recent increases in pay seem to have benefited the highest educated the most. A possible explanation is that the positions in Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations are harder to replace.

Even though the overall estimated loss of employment in the major occupational group Sales and related occupations was 3,700 jobs, average hourly wages increased by 8.5 percent from

2001 to 2002. Another major occupational group hit hard was the Production occupations, resulting in 3,600 fewer estimated jobs. About 1,000 of the lost jobs in this major occupational group were Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers and about another 500 were jobs lost in Computer-controlled machine tool operators, metal and plastic. In general, occupations belonging to the Production occupations group are related to the Manufacturing industry, which over the same time period lost 12,600 jobs. Despite the huge job losses in Production occupations, those average hourly wages increased 3.4 percent. In comparison the consumer price index (CPI) for the northeast increased 2.4 percent from December 2001 to December 2002.

## Change in hourly wage for specific occupations

The wage for Personal financial advisors increased the most, 42.4 percent between 2001 and 2002. This increased the average hourly rate from \$37.06 to \$52.77. Second, third and fourth were Dentists, Family and General Practitioners, and Internist (general), all belonging to the same major occupational group, Healthcare practitioner and technical occupations. These three healthcare-related occupations increased on average about twenty dollars an hour, increasing from an average of \$55 in 2001 to \$75 in 2002. Physicians and surgeons (all other), also belonging to this major occupational group, ranked sixth increasing 25.3 percent from an average hourly wage of \$62.50 to \$78.32. Some of the fluctuations in hourly wages from one year to the other may be explained by some changes in the program (see sidebar).

The occupation decreasing the most in average hourly pay is *Baggage Porters* and *Bellhops*, losing 28 percent of it's average hourly wage, decreasing from \$10.81 to \$7.78 per hour. It is somewhat

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## Methodology:

The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program surveys a different set of companies in each survey. Companies with 250 or more employees are sampled with certainty over a three-year survey cycle. In this recent survey two major changes occurred:

- The OES program changed its method of conducting the survey from an annual survey with reference dates of October, November, and December to a new semi-annual method. This means that the sample size was divided in half, and that the OES program now conducts two surveys annually, one in May and another in November.
- The survey switched industry coding from using the Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) to using the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS).

Only occupations with employment of more than 100 people have been selected for this comparison.

surprising that *Real estate brokers* ranked second among occupations losing the most in average hourly wage, as the housing market boomed, even through the recession. A possible explanation could be that the estimated number of brokers more than doubled from 2001 to 2002, thereby deflating the average pay by 21.9 percent. The same mechanism can probably explain why *Carpet installer's* average hourly pay decreased by 14.4 percent, as estimated occupational employment increased by 50 percent over-the-year in response to the increased demand for home renovations.

The 2001 to 2002 wage and employment comparison showed no correlation between lost occupational employment and decrease in wages. Insurance claims and policy processing clerks is the only occupation among the top ten occupations losing employment that also decreased substantially in pay. Retail Salespersons, Cooks (short order), Cashiers, Telemarketers, and Electrical and electronic equipment assemblers each lost more than 1,000 jobs from 2001 to 2002, but hourly wage rates increased from three to more than six percent.

Annette Nielsen

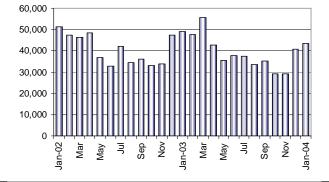
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#### **Unemployment Compensation Claims Activity**

Total Regular Unemployment					Change fro	m Previous	
Compensation Programs:			Mon	th	Yea	ar	
	Jan-04	Dec-03	Jan-03	Net	Percent	Net	Percent
Initial Claims	6,093	6,874	6,543	-781	-11.4%	-450	-6.9%
Continued Weeks	43,486	40,917	49,002	2,569	6.3%	-5,516	-11.3%

#### **Unemployment Compensation Fund**

Unemployment compensation fund balance at the end of January	\$223,914,825.77
Average payment for a week of total unemployment:	\$250.96
Net benefits paid:	\$8,701,704.72
Net contributions received during the month:	\$2,428,753.42
Interest Received:	\$0.00
Reed Act Distribution:	\$0.00
Reed Act Withdrawal for Administrative Costs:	\$51,294.65



United States All Urban Areas (CPI-U) (1982-1984=100)

### Claims Activity

#### Trust Fund

## Continued Weeks Claimed

Jan. 2002 - Jan. 2004

Although the number of continued weeks claimed in January 2004 showed an increase over-themonth, it was still down more than 5,500 over-the-year.

			Change from Previou			
Jan-04	Dec-03	Jan-03	Month	Year		
185.2	184.3	181.7	0.5%	1.9%		

Consumer Price Index

4.1%

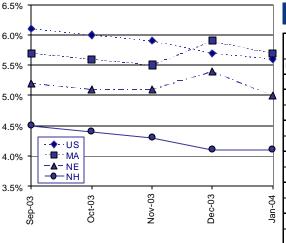
5.1%

4.5%

5.4%

## N.H. and U.S. Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

The unemployment rate 4.5% for New Hampshire in January 2004 stayed the same, where as New England's unemployment rate declined 0.5 percent after an increase in December 2003.



#### preliminary revised Dec-03 Jan-03 Jan-04 United States 5.8% 5.6% 5.7% 5.7% 5.7% Northeast 5.9% New England 5.0% 5.4% 5.3% Connecticut 4.7% 5.5% 5.2% Maine 4.9% 5.2% 4.8% Massachusetts 5.9% 5.6% 5.6%

New Hampshire

Rhode Island

**Unemployment Rates by Region** 

#### Vermont 3.8% 4.7% 4.2% Mid Atlantic 6.1% 5.9% 5.8% New Jersey 5.5% 5.6% 6.0% New York 6.5% 6.3% 6.3% Pennsylvania 5.9% 5.3% 5.2%

4.1%

5.2%

Seasonally
Adjusted
Labor Force
Estimates
By Place of Residence

				revised	preliminary
	Sep-03	Oct-03	Nov-03	Dec-03	Jan-04
New Hampshire					
Unemployment Rate	4.5%	4.4%	4.3%	4.1%	4.1%
Civilian Labor Force	720,370	719,650	717,890	716,000	725,310
Number Employed	688,200	688,240	687,010	686,580	695,710
Number Unemployed	32,170	31,410	30,880	29,420	29,600
United States (in thousands	s)				
Unemployment Rate	6.1%	6.0%	5.9%	5.7%	5.6%
Civilian Labor Force	146,545	146,793	147,277	146,878	146,863
Number Employed	137,573	138,014	138,603	138,479	138,566
Number Unemployed	8,973	8,779	8,674	8,398	8,297

Seasonally Adjusted Nonfarm Employment By Place of Establishment

Supersector	Sep-03	Oct-03	Nov-03	revised Dec-03	preliminary Jan-04
Total Nonfarm	621,600	619,200	617,600	622,300	615,400
Construction	26,500	26,200	26,000	29,000	28,400
Manufacturing	82,000	81,700	81,100	78,700	77,700
Trade, Transportation, and					
Utilities	140,000	139,900	139,700	140,500	139,900
Leisure and Hospitality	63,400	62,300	61,300	63,300	62,900
Government	92,600	90,900	91,000	92,000	89,900

#### Labor Force Estimates New Hampshire Jan-04 Dec-03 Jan-03 Number of workers revised preliminary 714,370 714,080 720,330 Total Civilian Labor Force 685,830 687,680 677,770 Employed 32,650 28,540 36,310 Unemployed Unemployment Rate (percent of labor force) 4.5% 4.0% 4.5%

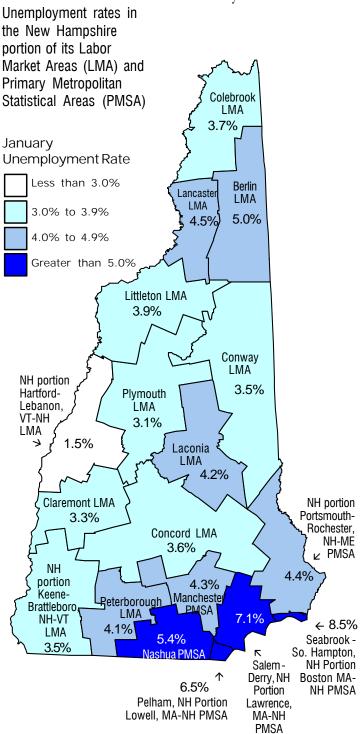
#### **Unemployment Rates by Area**

	preliminary	revised	
	Jan-04	Dec-03	Jan-03
U.S and Regional States			
United States	6.3%	5.4%	6.5%
Northeast	6.3%	5.4%	6.5%
New England	5.7%	5.1%	5.9%
Connecticut	5.2%	5.0%	5.7%
Maine	5.8%	5.0%	5.7%
Massachusetts	6.2%	5.4%	6.2%
New Hampshire	4.5%	4.0%	5.0%
Rhode Island	6.1%	4.9%	6.4%
Vermont	4.8%	4.4%	5.3%
Mid Atlantic	6.5%	5.5%	6.7%
New Jersey	5.8%	5.2%	6.3%
New York	7.2%	6.2%	7.0%
Pennsylvania	6.1%	4.7%	6.6%
Labor Market Areas			
Berlin LMA	5.0%	5.7%	7.7%
Seabrook-South Hampton NH			
Portion Boston MA-NH PMSA	8.5%	7.8%	10.1%
Claremont LMA	3.3%	2.6%	2.9%
Colebrook LMA	3.7%	6.5%	5.6%
Concord LMA	3.6%	3.1%	3.9%
Conway LMA	3.5%	2.9%	4.2%
NH Portion Hartford-Lebanon,	1.5%	1.2%	1.5%
VT-NH LMA NH Portion Keene-Brattleboro,	1.576	1.270	1.57
NH-VT LMA	3.5%	2.7%	3.4%
Laconia LMA	4.2%	3.5%	4.4%
Lancaster LMA	4.5%	3.9%	6.1%
Salem-Derry, NH Portion		0.070	01.17.
Lawrence, MA-NH PMSA	7.1%	6.2%	7.5%
Littleton LMA	3.9%	3.2%	3.4%
Pelham, NH Portion Lowell,			
MA-NH PMSA	6.5%	5.8%	8.6%
Manchester PMSA	4.3%	3.9%	5.2%
Nashua PMSA	5.4%	5.1%	6.3%
Peterborough LMA	4.1%	3.6%	4.6%
Plymouth LMA	3.1%	2.8%	3.6%
NH Portion Portsmouth-			
Rochester, NH-ME PMSA	4.4%	3.6%	4.7%
Counties			
Belknap	4.4%	3.6%	4.8%
Carroll	3.4%	2.8%	4.0%
Cheshire	3.7%	3.0%	3.7%
Coos	4.5%	5.2%	6.6%
Grafton	2.4%	2.0%	2.4%
Hillsborough	4.9%	4.5%	5.7%
Merrimack	3.4%	3.0%	3.7%
Rockingham	5.9%	5.1%	6.4%
Strafford	4.1%	3.6%	4.8%
Sullivan	3.4%	2.6%	2.9%

Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

## Not Seasonally Adjusted

By Place of Residence



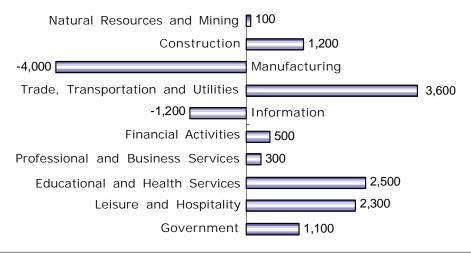
## Monthly Not Seasonally Adjusted New Hampshire Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

Despite seasonal overthe-month declines in Construction, Retail trade, and Government, total employment in January 2004 still showed an over-theyear increase of 5,300.

Employment by Super Sector	Jan-04	Dec-03	Jan-03	from previ	ous:
by place of establishment	(preliminary)	(revised)		Month	Year
Total All Super Sectors	608,900	627,600	603,600	-18,700	5,300
Private Employment Total	519,100	533,200	514,900	-14,100	4,200
Natural Resources & Mining	1,000	1,000	900	0	100
Construction	26,900	29,100	25,700	-2,200	1,200
Manufacturing	77,700	79,000	81,700	-1,300	-4,000
Durable Goods	58,000	58,900	60,500	-900	-2,500
Non-Durable Goods	19,700	20,100	21,200	-400	-1,500
Trade, Transportation					
and Utilities	139,600	146,400	136,000	-6,800	3,600
Wholesale Trade	27,300	27,500	26,200	-200	1,100
Retail Trade	96,500	103,000	94,100	-6,500	2,400
Transportation and Utilities	15,800	15,900	15,700	-100	100
Information	11,500	11,700	12,700	-200	-1,200
Financial Activities	37,300	37,400	36,800	-100	500
Professional and Business	52,600	54,400	52,300	-1,800	300
Educational and Health	94,600	94,800	92,100	-200	2,500
Leisure and Hospitality	58,600	59,800	56,300	-1,200	2,300
Other Services	19,300	19,600	20,400	-300	-1,100
Government Total	89,800	94,400	88,700	-4,600	1,100

## Change in Nonfarm Employment

Jan 03 to Jan 04



## Monthly Analysis of Current Employment Statistics (CES) Data

For further analysis please read the *Detailed Monthly Analysis of Industry Employment Data* on our Web site at <www.nhes.state.nh.us /elmi/nonfarm.htm>

Seasonally Adjusted: The preliminary seasonally adjusted estimates for January 2004 showed that total nonfarm employment in New Hampshire declined by 6,900 jobs. All published supersectors in this data series posted negative numbers for the month.

Leading the way, government (supersector 90) contributed 2,100 jobs to that decline, while manufacturing (supersector 30) dropped 1,000 jobs. Construction (supersector 20) and trade,

transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) each found it necessary to reduce its ranks by 600 jobs. Finally, employment in leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) fell by 400 jobs.

Unadjusted: January 2004 preliminary estimates in this data series showed that New Hampshire's total nonfarm employment dropped 18,700 jobs in the aftermath of December's holiday season. Like the seasonally adjusted component,

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## Monthly Unadjusted Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Primary Metropolitan Statistical Area

	Manchester PMSA			Nashua PMSA			Portsmouth-Rochester NH-ME PMSA		
Employment by Sector number of jobs		Change from			Change from	1		Change fro	om
by place of establishment	Jan-04	Month	Year	Jan-04	Month	Year	Jan-04	Month	Year
Total All Sectors	109,700	-2,200	2,400	94,500	-2,100	100	120,100	-6,300	600
Private Employment Total	97,200	-1,900	2,100	84,200	-2,100	0	96,900	-4,000	700
Natural Resources and Construction	5,900	-300	300	4,000	-200	200	4,300	-200	300
Manufacturing	11,400	-100	-300	21,300	0	-800	11,700	-400	-1,100
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	25,200	-500	1,300	21,600	-1,100	200	25,000	-1,700	300
Wholesale Trade	6,300	100	100	3,600	-100	0	4,300	-100	200
Retail Trade	15,100	-700	1,200	16,100	-900	300	18,400	-1,500	200
Transportation and Utilities	3,800	100	0	1,900	-100	-100	2,300	-100	-100
Information	3,100	0	100	1,900	0	0	3,000	100	-300
Financial Activities	8,700	0	-100	6,400	-100	-300	7,600	0	100
Professional and Business	13,700	-600	400	8,100	-100	400	12,300	-300	800
Educational and Health	16,600	0	200	11,200	-100	300	18,500	0	800
Leisure and Hospitality	8,300	-400	100	6,600	-500	-100	10,700	-1,400	-300
Services	4,300	0	100	3,100	0	100	7,900	-800	-500
Government Total	12,500	-300	300	10,300	0	100	23,200	-2,300	-100

#### Average Earnings and Hours of Production Workers in Manufacturing

	Average Weekly Earnings			Averag	e Weekly I	Hours	Average Hourly Earnings		
]	Jan-04	Dec-03	Jan-03	Jan-04	Dec-03	Jan-03	Jan-04	Dec-03	Jan-03
Sector	prelim.	revised		prelim.	revised		prelim.	revised	
New Hampshire	•			•		•	•		
All Manufacturing	\$614.98	\$613.47	\$597.60	40.7	40.6	40.0	\$15.11	\$15.11	\$14.94
Durable Goods	643.67	631.89	627.35	41.5	41.3	41.3	15.51	15.30	15.19
Nondurable Goods	538.86	562.40	517.57	38.6	38.6	36.5	13.96	14.57	14.18
Manchester PMSA						<u> </u>			
All Manufacturing	\$611.23	\$603.10	\$602.55	37.8	37.6	38.6	\$16.17	\$16.04	\$15.61
Nashua PMSA			•			•			
All Manufacturing	\$666.69	\$674.36	\$579.68	42.6	42.2	40.2	\$15.65	\$15.98	\$14.42
Portsmouth-Rocheste	r, NH-MA I	PMSA	•			•			
All Manufacturing	\$597.12	\$590.20	\$680.85	38.4	38.3	42.5	\$15.55	\$15.41	\$16.02

all supersectors experienced a reduction in employment totals, except natural resources and mining (supersector 10). The number of jobs in this supersector stayed at the December level in the current month's totals.

As would be expected for January, trade, transportation, and utilities (supersector 40) sustained the largest job loss with a 6,800-job reduction. The holiday hiatus in Government's (supersector 90) educational services resulted in a 4,600

job contraction. Construction (supersector 20) pared its ranks by 2,200 jobs, which has been a normal event for this time of year over the past ten years. There were three other major contributors to the January slide. Professional and business services (supersector 60) cut 1,800 jobs, manufacturing (supersector 30) employed 1,300 fewer workers, and leisure and hospitality (supersector 70) dropped 1,200 jobs from its ranks.

B. G. McKay

## New Publications Released

#### Vital Signs 2004

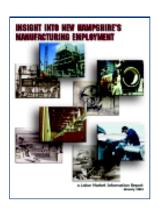
Vital Signs 2004 is a one-stop data source at its best. Whether you are looking for New Hampshire's unemployment rate, the number of housing permits issued in the state, the number of people living below the poverty rate, energy costs, or even expenditures per pupil, you will find it here. With more than 800 indicators in 18 areas of New Hampshire's economy, Vital Signs 2004 is a valuable tool for anyone looking for economic and social indicators about the Granite State.

# Vital Signs 2004

## Insight into New Hampshire's Manufacturing Employment

For decades Manufacturing had been New Hampshire's prominent industry. That is no longer the case. An in depth look at this industry using location quotient and shift-share analysis is now available.

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